

## Survivors' Test For Successful After School Initiatives



**Can your afterschool and summer programs handle the heat and pressure to survive/be sustained? Take this test and see how your programs score.**

**I.** The first ingredient for surviving is that your program has to be successful and full of quality elements. How does your program stack up? On each element rate your program from 10 to 1 (high to low).

**Success and Quality Ingredients-The "Six E's":**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ENGAGING** (A rating of "10" should have at least these indicators.)

- ✓ The children truly "get into" the learning projects and they are designed to help them in school.
- ✓ We are aggressively reaching out to children who need extra time and help to achieve and have a significant percentage of students and families who previously were not involved.
- ✓ The young people in our program participate almost everyday.

\_\_\_\_\_ **ENRICHING**

- ✓ The students regularly participate in intentional learning opportunities that reinforce and stretch their skills (e.g., the arts, technology, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> languages, interest clubs—chess, filming).
- ✓ The learning activities are linked to the school day, help the children "catch up and keep up," but are not "drill and kill" worksheets; however, they do embed state academic standards.
- ✓ Families and neighbors have chances to strengthen their skills and education levels.

\_\_\_\_\_ **EXTRA CONNECTIONS, HANDS AND HOPE**

- ✓ Participants have mentors and tutors to learn basic skills and see first-hand how their learning relates to their future (e.g., senior citizens, college students as well as from local businesses).
- ✓ Civic, arts, youth, and faith-based groups and CBO's help deliver engaging and enriching content and connect the young people and their families to positive activities in the community.

\_\_\_\_\_ **EDUCATIONAL EXPERTISE ALSO FLOWS FROM THE SCHOOLS TO THE COMMUNITY**

- ✓ The school's learning resources (e.g., library, computers, fitness equipment, drama and music facilities, and language labs) are made available as organized community learning centers.
- ✓ Students do community service - - - teach what they know to adults and senior citizens (e.g., computers, 2nd languages), maintain neighborhood libraries, and tutor younger students.

\_\_\_\_\_ **EXCELLENCE and HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

- ✓ Student and teacher work and community projects are displayed "everywhere" in the school and in the community (e.g., special presentations, art work, science and service projects).
- ✓ Very direct connections are made to help parents and students see and learn the pathway to college and promising careers.

\_\_\_\_\_ **BONUS "E":** Add 10 points if energetic (even at 5PM and in the middle of the summer) staff teach and run each of your classes and programs, and they regularly up-grade their skills and link to the regular classroom teachers and community groups.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Subtotal:** What is your score on this first half of After School Survivor Test?

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